

Name of Committee: Override Study Committee

Meeting Date: March 19, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Town Hall- 5th Floor School Committee Room

Members Present:

X	Clifford Brown	X	Kevin Lang	X	Beth Jackson Stram
X	Alberto Chang	X	Carol Levin		Timothy Sullivan
X	Chad Ellis	X	Sergio Modigliani	X	Ann Connolly Tolkoff
X	Janet Gelbart	X	Lee Selwyn	X	Dick Benka – Co-Chair
X	Michael Glover		Lisa Serafin Sheehan	X	Susan Wolf Ditkoff – Co-Chair
X	Carol Kamin	X	James Stergios		

Staff Present: Melissa Goff, Assistant Town Administrator

Topic: Approval of minutes

The minutes from 3/12/14 were approved with Michael Glover, Carol Kamin, Kevin Lang, and Carol Levin abstaining.

Topic: Reports of Schools Subcommittee and Schools Subcommittee Task Forces

Cliff Brown presented the findings of the Population And Special Education Task Force. He noted that the information was preliminary, still in draft form and is subject to change. A copy of the presentation (03_19_14 Population And Special Education Task Force presentation) can be found here:

http://www.brooklinema.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=1797

Alberto Chang asked about the BEEP program and if there was a cap at full cost recovery. Cliff responded that the recommended increases won't ever reach full cost recovery. Not all peers are for profit. Chad Ellis added that the non-profits have fundraisers and subsidize some of these programs. Carol Levin asked if more for-profits need to be added for comparison. Cliff said that the comps used came from the School Department. Carol Kamin added that the non-profit programs tend to be of better quality. It is difficult to make apples to apples comparisons. Beth asked about how scholarships factor into the numbers. Cliff responded that they didn't dive too deep into that issue, but fundraising efforts for permanent scholarships should be looked at. Beth Jackson Stram asked if additional scholarships are needed as a result of increased fees should that be factored into an override number. Chad said that the changes would be marginal since it would be based on the increase in cost. Ann Connolly Tolkoff asked if the other programs accept children with IEPs. Janet Gelbart responded that as far as they knew, these children all go to BEEP. Ann asked if raising rates would have an impact on the ratios. The environment must include at least 1 'typically developing' child for each special needs child. Brookline currently runs 2:1. Cliff said it is low risk, especially given the waiting list. Ann suggested that any recommendation on increasing fees should be paired with an effort to get additional funding from the State. Susan Wolf Ditkoff asked about the rents for BEEP and if it is included in what

Cliff presented in overall costs. Cliff said that it was, and that he would make a note of that in the report.

The Committee discussed the Soule Early Childhood Center. Janet Gelbart described the Recreation Department's approach to cost recovery and how there may be additional costs that are not factored into their model. Scholarships are provided at Soule, but they will be capped. Michael Glover noted that the eminent domain issue at Soule could be resolved with additional legislative action. Alberto asked if the capacity of 72 was due to space restrictions. Cliff said it was related to the infant/toddler mix and the licensed personnel, but they could dig deeper on the cause of the cap. It was noted that Eliot has a classroom for the Heath Extended Day program. Alberto asked if they had received any public feedback on the program. Cliff said that there has been some discussion among Town Meeting Members, and that there has also been some concern about the program getting bumped for space needs. The committee discussed the summer camp program at Soule and the program that is run out of the Baldwin School. Susan reminded the Committee that it is important to think about the governance structures of each program and who their recommendations will ultimately go to.

The Committee discussed the Extended Day programs and the use of school space. Susan said that the School Committee is actively looking at after school use, so it would be good to have any additional work coordinated between the two groups. Kevin Lang said that given the disparity of charges at each school he is concerned about equity. The Committee discussed space rental and whether or not some of the programs run by the non-profit groups should continue to run these programs or if there was a better model than having nine separate organizations. Janet noted that they have received letters in opposition of eliminating the individual organizations.

The Committee discussed the kindergarten program. Lee said that they should be looking at the total cost of the program. He does not see a great benefit to charging for this program. It just shifts costs. He hopes this recommendation is off the table. Susan said that the subcommittee's analysis is part of the overall numerical fact base that the OSC has been asked to assemble.

Topic: Other Business

The Committee decided to meet on Monday 3/24 in order to continue the meeting and finish both Cliff and Lee's presentations. Beth added that she is hoping for the full committee's input on her 5-year projection. The Committee will meet on 3/24 and 3/26 next week and then the chairs and subcommittee chairs will present to the Advisory Committee on 4/2. The committee will also meet on 4/9 (start time to be confirmed) and 4/16. They will not meet during school vacation week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.